

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (CA-47), Vice Chair of the House Homeland Security Committee, today applauded the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) for swiftly implementing a new rule requiring airlines to check the no-fly list within two hours of being notified of an addition to the registry. Prior to the rule change, airlines had twenty-four hours to check new additions against the no-fly list.

“I want to recognize the Transportation Security Administration’s timely efforts to revise the agency’s watch list screening procedures as terrorist threats continue to develop,” said Rep. Sanchez. “The fact that Faisal Shahzad, the primary suspect in the Times Square bomb case, was able to board a plane to Dubai after his name had already been added to the no-fly list is completely unacceptable. Thanks to TSA’s changes, we’ll now be able to screen passengers up to the point of departure.

“I think it’s also important to note that this country has experienced two major attempted terrorist attacks in the last six months, yet TSA still does not have a leader to head its operations,” Rep. Sanchez continued. “I am hopeful President Obama will soon nominate a viable candidate for TSA Administrator and I urge the Senate to move quickly when this happens. The ongoing lack of leadership at TSA puts the security of our transportation systems and airports at risk.”

On Wednesday, the Transportation Security Administration will begin requiring airlines to check the no-fly list within two hours of being notified of an addition to the registry. Faisal Shahzad, the Times Square bombing suspect, was placed on the list but made it through security at John F. Kennedy International Airport and onto a flight to Dubai. He was only apprehended after Customs and Border Protection agents spotted his name on the flight list 30 minutes before takeoff.